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Stephanie Hill  
Name (Print)

*Stephanie Hill*  
Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: BENTON et al.	)	Examiner: TUCKER, Philip C.
	)	
Application No.: 10/076,209	)	
	)	Group Art Unit: 1712
Filed: February 14, 2002	)	
	)	
Docket No.: 00072CIP (3600-306-01)	)	Confirmation No.: 8589

For: DRILLING FLUIDS CONTAINING AN ALKALI METAL FORMATE

**AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
Sir:

December 17, 2003

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated August 1, 2003, for which the Examiner has set a three-month period for response. A Petition for a two-month Extension of Time and the requisite fee are submitted herewith, thus making the response due on or before January 1, 2004.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

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